

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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W. H. Allen

DATE

JAN 03 1980

SUBJECT

ORD Study of Zinc-Lead Mining Area Near Joplin, Missouri

FROM

Dale B Parke

40113228



SUPERFUND RECORDS

TO Files

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An EPA ORD Study to help solve environmental problems associated with the closed mines was requested by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources last February. In response, a meeting was held on December 10th in the offices of the Ozark Gateway Council of Governments followed by field reconnaissance of the Oronogo-Webb City-Duenweg Mining District. The names of the eleven people involved are on the attached list.

Mr. Hubbard explained that EPA emphasis is shifting from coal to other mining activities in recognition of the Office of Surface Mining responsibilities for coal. He has been visiting closed and operating hard rock mines to obtain information to assist in developing practical BMP's for RCRA rules. Lynn Apel was along to collect samples for her research on leachability and revegetation of solid waste from mining. Within a couple of years money is expected from RCRA for reclaiming abandoned mines. Samples were collected to help determine if mining wastes should be classified as hazardous.

Ron Holland invited two knowledgeable locals, Daniel Stewart and John Mattes, to the meeting. Mr. Stewart is a retired mining engineer who worked in the Joplin mines with the American Zinc Company. Mr. Mattes is a contractor who would like a grant to prove that the tailings piles can be reworked with modern techniques. He and his family have operated mines in the area and have a wealth of information about the area and mining operations. Any efforts to work on the mine tailings runoff or groundwater discharge in the area would be easier if done when the site, specific knowledge and experience of people such as these are still available.

I brought back some grasses that are growing in the tailings area for identification by Ken Blan. I also suggested that Hubbard and Apel consult with Ken on the type of vegetation that might match the conditions and be of some value as agricultural products.